

How to Handle Pets During an Emergency

Does your Family Emergency Plan include your pets? It is a sad fact that most shelters open during a disaster cannot accept pets of any kind. One of the primary reasons people choose not to evacuate their homes when asked to do so by emergency personnel is because they cannot take their pets. Preparation is necessary for their survival as well.



Important questions to ask:

- If you are evacuated, do you know which hotels accept pets?
- Have you made arrangements with a relative or a boarding facility to take your pet(s) even if you are hospitalized?
- If you have to leave your residence quickly, how will your pet(s) react to the confusion?
- Is your pet(s) on any medication and/or have a specific diet?
- Do you have enough medication and/or specific diet needs for a five day stay away from your residence?

How Sandy City is Preparing for Possible Disasters

Just as every individual and family should have their own disaster preparedness plan, so should every community. Sandy City is no exception and we have taken some major steps toward establishing our own disaster preparedness program.

We Have a Plan.

The Sandy City Emergency Operations Plan provides an all-hazards emergency planning and response guide for local officials and each department within the city. Specific Emergency Support Functions have been assigned so that each department can plan its response actions when a disaster occurs.

We Provide Emergency Response Training to Our Employees.

The National Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is well-known to many of our city employees who spend a week at a time completing intensive courses relating to all potential hazards including earthquakes, severe weather, floods, wildfires and other disasters. During the last 2 years, 58 Sandy City employees have completed 98 various courses at EMI and continue to take advantage of this training program.

We Conduct Emergency Management Exercises.

Drills, tabletop exercises and functional exercises are a vital part of any emergency preparedness program. Previously conducted exercises involve severe weather, power outages, flooding and terrorist attacks. Partners in these exercises include other government jurisdictions, hospitals, schools, churches, The American Red Cross, UTA and TRAX, the Utah National Guard, the South Towne Mall, VOAD (Volunteers Organizations Active in Disasters) and others.

We Involve the Private Sector.

Sandy City recently sponsored a program facilitated by Michigan State University called, "Critical Incident Protocol." This program emphasizes the partnership concept in emergency planning, between the public and private sectors in a community. Participants from various community businesses and Sandy City attended meetings at Alta View Hospital, Jordan High School and Sandy City Hall to both review plans and discuss ways to assist each other when disaster strikes. The most important aspect of the program is building relationships between the city and those it serves.

It's important to note that despite all the preparations being done by the city, individual and family preparedness should still be a number one priority in the minds of all citizens.

Response by city resources to individual situations could be within hours, days, or even weeks, depending upon the disaster – so plan and prepare accordingly.



One of the many training exercises conducted by Emergency Management.